

BOARD OF EDUCATION
OSSINING UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Ossining, NY

Executive Session/Work Session/Special Meeting
Roosevelt Education Center

April 17, 2013
Executive Session: 6:00 p.m.
Work Session/Special Meeting: 7:30 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Mr. Bill Kress, *President*; Ms. Dana Levenberg, *Vice President*; Dr. Kimberly Case, Mr. Graig Galef, Mr. Frank Schneckner, Mr. Steve Wardwell, Ms. Cindy Winter

Others

Present: Mr. Raymond Sanchez, *Superintendent of Schools*; Dr. Angela White, *Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education and Administrative Services*, Ms. Alita Zuber, *Assistant Superintendent for Business*

I. Call to Order -- *President*

Board President, Bill Kress, called the April 17, 2013 Work Session/Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. Motion to Enter into Executive Session

Dana Levenberg moved and Kimberly Case seconded the motion to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel.

Motion carried: 7-0

No formal action was taken

III. Motion to Reconvene the Work Session/Special Meeting

At 7:24 p.m. Kimberly Case moved and Cindy Winter seconded the motion to reconvene the Work Session/Special Meeting of April 17, 2013.

IV. Pledge of Allegiance

Cindy Winter led all those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board President Bill Kress asked for a moment of silence for the victims of the tragedy at the Boston Marathon.

Mr. Kress congratulated the cast of Ossining High School for their performance of "Rent" for their outstanding performances.

V. Work Session

▪ ***Proposed 2013-2014 Ossining Union Free School District Budget***

Superintendent of Schools Raymond Sanchez provided an overview of budget discussions held at prior Board of Education meetings. The PowerPoint presentation outlined the various steps taken

to assist the administration in developing a fiscally responsible budget to the Board and to the community. The District conducted mini-lessons to provide the community with information pertaining to the proposed budget and how the mandated tax levy cap affects the budget, conducted a community survey in order to determine what was most important to the community, and budget presentations were provided to various stakeholder groups.

After a careful and thorough review of community input, the following proposed reductions will be made:

- Reduced teacher substitute costs
- Restructured Elementary Enrichment
- Reduction of related services
- Reduction in Central Office staff and contractual expenses
- Reduction of bus routes (routes will be combined)

Grant funds will be used to provide professional development and other support services. A very important priority was to maintain class sizes and the proposed budget does not affect the classroom.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Alita Zuber provided an overview of five facts pertaining to the mandated tax cap levy.

- The complex NYS tax cap formula determines each school district's maximum tax levy
- The tax cap is different for each school district
- Ossining's tax cap is 3.56%
- The District's proposed tax levy increase is 3.4% or \$141,000 below the tax cap
- If the budget is defeated twice, it may result in approximately \$3 million of additional cuts to programs and staff

Ms. Zuber explained how mandatory expenses on tax levy revenue affects the proposed budget. The NYS tax cap can severely impact a school district's solvency.

Mr. Sanchez stated that the budget to be presented to the community at its Annual District Budget Vote and Elections is fiscally responsible and preserves Ossining Pride. The administration has carefully reviewed and taken into account the needs of the community as reflected within the proposed budget.

Mr. Sanchez reviewed four (4) recommendations to the Board since the Transportation Referendum held on April 16, 2013 was defeated.

- Option #1: Use of additional NYS aid: \$362,000 and use additional fund balance: \$51,000
- Option #2: Use of additional NYS aid: \$362,000 and increase Pre-K transportation mileage limits from .5 to 1 mile: \$90,000 and reduce tax levy: \$39,000
- Option #3: Use of additional NYS aid: \$362,000 and cut 3rd grade teacher: \$100,000 and reduce tax levy: \$49,000
- Option #4: Use of additional NYS aid: \$362,000 and cut additional .5 enrichment teacher: \$51,000.

Board discussion took place. The Board reached consensus that Option #1 would best serve the school district. Mr. Sanchez stated that Option #1 will be incorporated in to the proposed budget which will be presented to the Board on April 23, 2013 for adoption.

Board President Bill Kress stated that budget discussions began in January 2013 – earlier than in past years. The District made every effort to include the community in its development of the proposed budget. The defeat of the Transportation Referendum on April 16th has necessitated the reductions presented tonight.

Audience Recognition

Lisa Rudley, Ossining

Bradley Morrison, Director of Cultural Arts

VI. Adjournment

At 8:33 p.m. Dana Levenberg moved and Cindy Winter seconded the motion to adjourn the Board of Education meeting of April 17, 2013.

Motion carried: 7-0

Ileana Ortiz
District Clerk